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28 DEC 1977

Honorable Elmer B. Staats
Comptroller General of the United States
General Accounting Office
Washington, D. C. 20548

GAO

Dear Mr. Staats:

I have your recent letters relating to our previous correspondence on the subject of the handling of sensitive intelligence information as well as your interest in further information on [redacted], and I have given these letters careful consideration.

As I have indicated in my previous letters, I fully appreciate your responsibilities and, to the extent feasible, I have authorized cooperation of document representatives of the General Accounting Office in an effort to assist in meeting these responsibilities. I believe I have made it clear, however, that I do not feel I can extend that cooperation to the point of including highly sensitive intelligence information in compartmented categories. This is particularly true of additional documentary data that we continue to locate as we search our files. 25X1

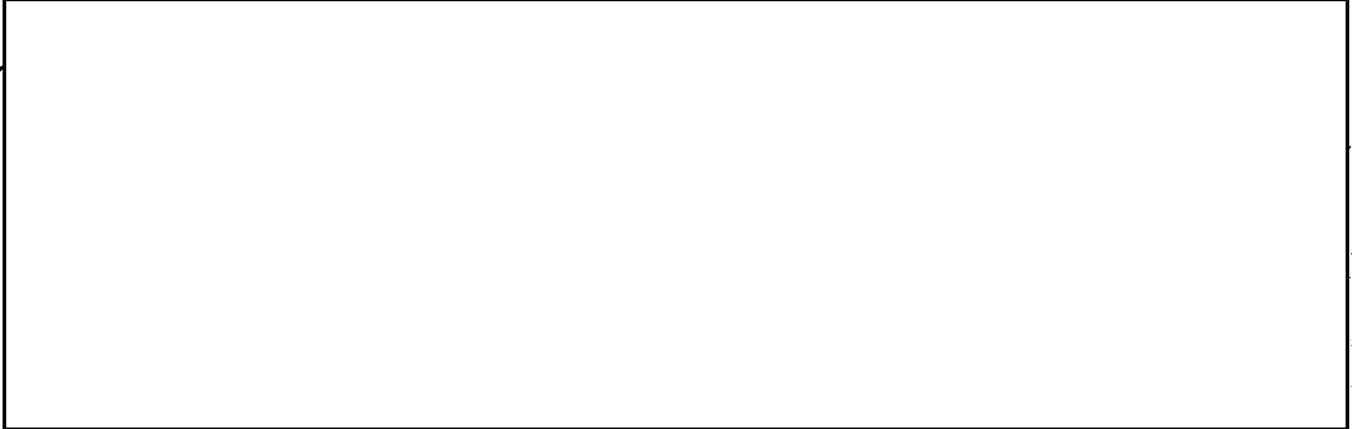
As you point out, we have provided a substantial amount of information to your representatives on [redacted]. In addition, we have cooperated directly with a number of committees and members of Congress who have an interest in this subject. This includes the Energy Subcommittees of the House Committees on Commerce and Interior, the Intelligence and Military Application of Nuclear Energy of the House Armed Services Committee, as well as several individual representatives, and the Energy Subcommittee of the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee. I understand that additional committees or subcommittees of the Congress are also expressing a desire for access to information on this subject. 25X1

Approved by Signer

Special Agent in Charge
Office of the Comptroller General
Washington, D. C. 20548
Approved by Special Agent in Charge
Office of the Comptroller General

SECRET

WASHINGTON
SENATE GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
ENERGY SUBCOMMITTEE



In view of these recent developments, I have concluded that further proliferation of sensitive intelligence information related to the [redacted] matter, except to the four committees of Congress specifically responsible for intelligence oversight, is not in the best interests of our national security. Therefore, in recognition of the statutory responsibility imposed upon me, I would appreciate your forbearance and understanding of the need for the restrictions I am imposing.

Yours sincerely,

25X1

/s/ Stansfield Turner

STANSFIELD TURNER